CELEBRATION OF LIFE

REVEREND DR. Gordon Choice

SUNRISE:
JUNE 20, 1952

SUNSET:
AUGUST 21, 2018

Services Held

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2018 - 9:30 AM

Glad Tidings Church Of God In Christ

970 GLAD TIDINGS WAY
HAYWARD, CA

Bishop J. W. Macklin
OFFICIANT

Reflections

Pastor Gordon Wade Choyce Sr. was born on June 20, 1952 to his parents, James Tang and Hattie Bee Choyce at Herrick Hospital in Berkeley, California. The middle child of three sons, Gordon was affectionately called "little brother" for he grew at a slower pace than his siblings. The Choyce boys were very active—one might say they used to get into all their hands could find for them to do.

Gordon possessed a quiet strength at an early age; his parents instilled the importance of hard work, self-discipline and self-worth. These principles served as the core foundation of Gordon's future. He would often sit at the feet of his elders and glean wisdom about having patience and being able to endure.

Gordon received his academic education from Berkeley public schools. He attended Lincoln Elementary School, Burbank Junior High School, and graduated from Berkeley High School in 1970. While at Berkeley High School, Gordon became the President of the Student Body as well as the Class President. He also was a star athlete as a running back for the football team and a wrestler for Berkeley High School's wrestling team.

Through the friendship of a fellow football teammate, Gordon was invited to attend a revival at the Missionary Church of God in Christ in Berkeley, California. It was during this Pentecostal revival that Gordon, along with four of his close friends and his future wife, received Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. This new relationship in Christ elevated Gordon's academic and athletic rigor.

During Gordon's senior year of school, his school counselor, Palmer D. Whitted encouraged and presented Gordon with an option to attend the College of Idaho in Caldwell, Idaho. Accepting this opportunity deferred Gordon from being drafted into the Vietnam War.

Shortly after starting his college career, Gordon began writing letters to Sharon Logan back home. The two used these letters to express the deep wonders of one another's heart. After two years of communication and courtship, Gordon proposed to Sharon via a love letter. To solidify the deal, upon returning home for Spring break, Gordon proposed to Sharon in person. On June 17, 1972, Gordon and Sharon married at the place they first met, Missionary Church of God in Christ, by the late Founding Pastor Thirland T. Daniels.

The two relocated to Caldwell, Idaho as husband and wife. A year later, came their first chocolate bouncing baby boy, Gordon Wade II. Two years later, the second baby boy, Dionne Edward was born. Gordon took great pride in his family.

After graduating from college with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology and Sociology, Gordon was recruited for a position as the Personnel Manager of the Morrison Knudsen Company in Boise, Idaho while simultaneously working on his Master's Degree in Business Administration from Boise State University.

After a reduction in the labor force, Gordon decided to return he and his family back to Berkeley, California in 1976, where he found employment for the University of California, Berkeley as an Electrician. In 1977, Gordon was recruited and offered a position as Personnel Manager for Stokely-Van Camp, later becoming Quaker Oats Company, in Oakland, California.

That same year, Gordon was blessed with his only daughter, Kara Allyse. During this time, Gordon was faced with one of the greatest faith walks of his life, having had a daughter born with a birth defect. But like the strong-willed person Gordon was, defeat was not an option for his daughter. He told the Lord, "If you heal my daughter, I will serve you until I die."

Driven the more to provide a good life for his family, Gordon accepted a promotion on his job as Personnel Manager & Labor Relations in 1983. Though making an honest living in the secular world, Gordon had great vision and a heart for God's people. Having watched many deficits within the underserved communities, Gordon felt a strong unction that God had more for him to give back to the people. In 1990 Gordon responded to the call and humbly submitted himself to fulfil the great need of pastoring the Missionary Church of God in Christ, under the appointment of Bishop German R. Ross of the California North Central Jurisdiction.

In 1992 Pastor Gordon Choyce started a licensed Alcohol and Drug Recovery Program for men and later for women. Through this ministry hundreds of men and women were blessed to start on a path towards recovery and acquiring life skills to live a sober and productive life. In 1996 Pastor Choyce left his career with Quaker Oats Company to enter ministry full time.

In 1997, Pastor Choyce hit the ground running, expanding on the recovery program and started a grass-roots non-profit organization called Jubilee Restoration Incorporated. Through Jubilee Restoration, Pastor Choyce's aim was to assure good housing, programs and strengthen the economic foundation of every community, especially disenfranchised people with their "backs against the wall."

Being granted the unique God giving opportunity to serve with his eldest son, Pastor Choyce received city level acknowledgement and an award from Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the ground breaking work of Jubilee Restoration's housing endeavors. Jubilee Restoration rehabbed over 200 properties to provide housing for those in need and broke ground on its first subsided housing and senior living facility at a time when housing development companies of color was few and far in between.

If there was a need, Pastor Choyce created a plan to address the need. In response to Berkeley's lack of homeless resources, Pastor Choyce started B.E.S.T. (Berkeley Ecumenical Strategic Team); he formed an alliance with various Pastors to pull together resources to address homeless issues in their Community.

Under the umbrella of Jubilee Restoration Inc, the Chaplaincy of the homeless, now Fred Finch, and Hope Homes was formulated to address the Youth homeless population. Such resources included a computer lab and Jubi-Spot, a youth homeless drop in center where youth were able to shower, get a meal, engage in recreational activities, and rest. That was the type of mindset Pastor Choyce had for the community and he had vision to expand even more.

Due in part to the economic decline, Jubilee Restoration's last three major housing development projects were unable to be completed. But to God be the glory for all those who were able to be housed and serviced to date through Jubilee Restoration Inc. Opposition did not abort God's purpose.

Despite obstacles and challenges posed to Jubilee Restoration, Pastor Choyce was persistent and continued to pursue Jubilee's purpose. While he often had to be reminded that Rome was not built in one day, Pastor Choyce didn't give up on the vision. God placed people along his path to support him, such as the late Berkeley City Council Woman Margaret Breland and Developer, Patrick Kennedy, who believed in, worked with, and advocated for the work of Jubilee Restoration Inc.

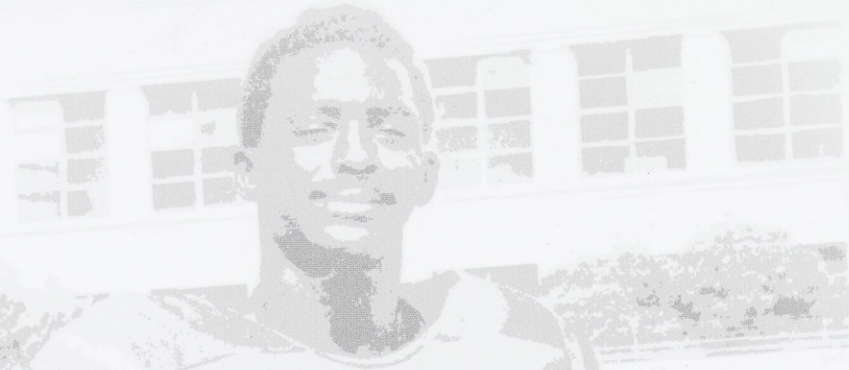
Much like his businessmanship, Pastor Choyce's pastoring was the same in that he taught the people to "Catch the vision, sow a seed" in all that is done. Pastor taught his church the importance of not accepting failure as the only option and doing things with a spirit of excellence.

Rounding out Pastor Choyce's academia, Pastor Choyce went on to obtain a Master's Degree from Pacific School of Religion, and a Doctoral Degree from San Francisco Theological Seminary of San Anselmo, California. Pastor Choyce's Dissertation "Shelter in the Midst of a Storm", a black faith-based organization approach to affordable housing in the city of Berkeley, California still serves as one of his greatest pieces of written text. With such a high academic profile, Pastor Choyce did it not for vain glory but to edify the people of the Lord.

Pastor Choyce gave of his knowledge to the local and greater church at large. Over the years, he served as the Executive Secretary and Administrative Assistant for the California North Central Jurisdiction, under the leadership of the Late Bishop Martin J. Clifton and later, Bishop Donald R. Murray. Under the leadership of Bishop Jerry W. Macklin, 2nd Assistant Presiding Bishop of the Church of God in Christ, Inc., Bishop of Nor Cal Metropolitan Jurisdiction, Pastor Choyce served as the National Director of Community Development Corporation and Services for the AIM Convention, member of the NorCal Executive Board, member of the Church of God in Christ National Adjutancy, NorCal Jurisdiction Chief Adjutant, and Chief Financial Officer.

Whether a great debate, intellectual conversation, a good book or movie, Pastor Choyce enjoyed mentally stimulating times as well as fun times with his family and church family. His strong tall stature and presence commanded attention when entering a room. His infectious laughter resounded loud and could brighten one's day. He was a very open man with a keen ear for good music, particularly string instruments and melodic vocal harmonies. He loved to listen to Mahalia Jackson and Carlton Pearson.

A Scholar of God's Word, worshiper, lover of God's people, teacher and Shepherd. Pastor Choyce's great mission here on earth was fulfilled on Tuesday, August 21, 2018. While his latter days posed some challenges, Pastor Gordon Choyce fought the good fight of faith until the end. His weary mortal body took rest as he embarked upon his eternal home in glory. In the end, he WON. No more pain, no more suffering; he has obtained the prize. As he would often say, "It is not about the date you were born or the date you died, but about what you did in the dash." To the legacy of your dash, a solider laid to rest in the arms of the one who said greater works shall you perform, Rev. Dr. Gordon Wade Choyce Sr., WE SALUTE YOU.



Pastor Gordon Choyce Was Preceded In Death By:

His parents: James Tang Choyce Sr. and Hattie Bee Choyce

His brothers: Bruce Edward and James Tang Choyce II.

His Son: Gordon Wade Choyce II.

Pastor LEAVES to cherish his legacy:

The love of his life, Sharon Marie Choyce

His Children:

Dionne Edward (Shelah), Kara Allyse (Donald Palmer Sr.), Jason Huey (Crystal), Tyme Brown (Ronli)

His Grandchildren

Donald Palmer Jr.

Tyanna Choyce, James A. Choyce-White, Kalyn Choyce, Brenea Palmer,

Sister-in-law, Judith Strassner (Pastor Orvelester Strassner), Brother-in-law, Odest Logan (Wornia "DeDe")

Nieces & Nephews:

Gracia Choyce, Sophia Choyce, Ivory Choyce (Chris Robinson), James Tang Choyce III. (Courtney), Jacoby Mabin, Danita Hunt, Danielle and Victor Hunt, Tori and Torelle Logan, Ikera Sade Martin, Julian Arif Ericks II., Janett Smith, Morgan Smith, Janaya Hunt, Master Morgan Smith, Jovanni Smith, Cameron Robinson

His Best Friends, Elder Clifford Brown Sr. and Leroy Fortune

His Companion and Friend, Rinard Ford

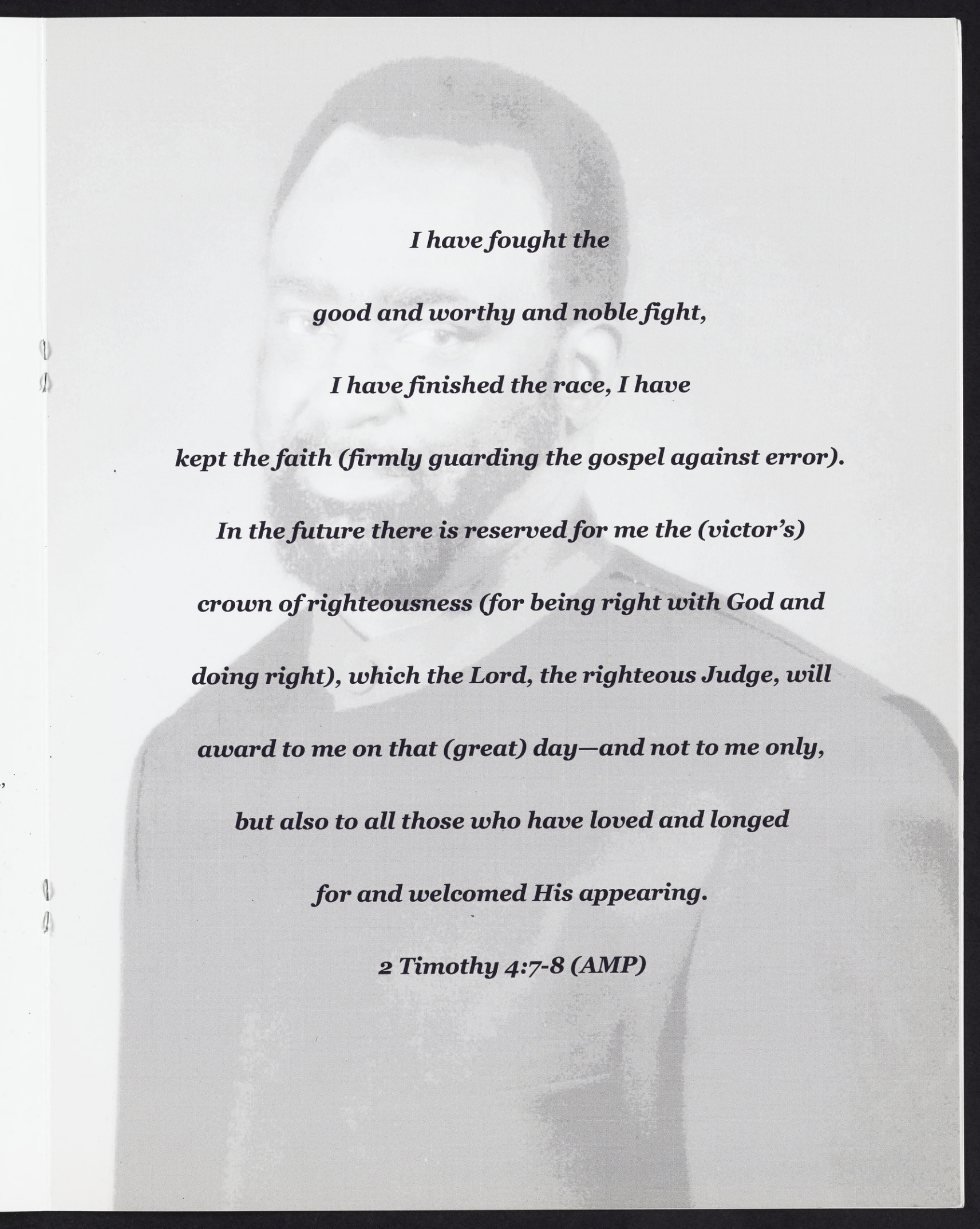
His cherished and favorite cousin: Winston Choyce (Janet)

An Innumerable host of cousins, friends, the Berkeley High School Class of 1970,

The extended Church Community

The Missionary Church Family, a wonderful body of people whom Pastor Choyce loved dearly.

We Will See You in the Morning Pastor Choyce!



I have fought the

good and worthy and noble fight,

I have finished the race, I have

kept the faith (firmly guarding the gospel against error).

In the future there is reserved for me the (victor's)

crown of righteousness (for being right with God and

doing right), which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will

award to me on that (great) day—and not to me only,

but also to all those who have loved and longed

for and welcomed His appearing.

2 Timothy 4:7-8 (AMP)

Order of Celebration

Master of Ceremonies - Bishop Donald Murray, Jurisdictional Prelate, CA North Central Jurisdiction

Praise and Worship - A Celebration of Life

Old Testament Reading - Superintendent George Murray, Admin. Assistant, No. Central
New Testament Reading - Elder Larry Joyner, Nor Cal Finance Dept.

Prayer of Comfort - Superintendent Bruce MacAlister, Nor Cal Admin. Assistant

A Medley of Worship - Brother Kevin Matthews and Gordon Choyce Memorial Ensemble

Missionary Church Remembers
Sister Faris Wallace, Youth Department
Mother Calleen Fulcher, Church Mother
Brother Gary Blanton - First 100 Men's Ministry
Pastor Cornell Wheeler – Senior Pastor

Selection - Gordon Choyce Memorial Ensemble

Reflections - The Berkeley Community and Colleagues
Berkeley High School (Class of 1970)
Deborah Raymond, Leroy Fortune, Elder Clifford Brown, Sr.
Pastor Anthony Summers - Jubilee Restoration Inc.
Brother Lavell Spence - Missionary Recovery Center
Bishop Bob Jackson – Community Developers
Pastor Alvin Ezekiel – Personal Friend, Camden, New Jersey

The Family Tributes
Facilitator, Superintendent Strassner, Bother - In - Law

Selection - Gordon Choyce Memorial Ensemble

Nor Cal Jurisdiction
Elder Richard Bulnes – Colleague and Friend
Mother Gloria Hunt, Jurisdictional Supervisor
Superintendent Jerome Harris, Pastors of Nor Cal

Reading Of The Obituary - Missionary Melissa Billingsly

Resolutions
Supt. J K Simpkins, Admin. Assist.
Missionary Church of God in Christ, Berkeley, CA
The City of Berkeley Proclamation
Nor Cal Metropolitan Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction

Sermonic Selection - "When Sunday Comes" Brother Lawrence Mathews

Eulogy - Bishop J. W. Macklin
Prelate, Nor Cal Metropolitan Jurisdiction 2nd Assistant Presiding Bishop, COGIC

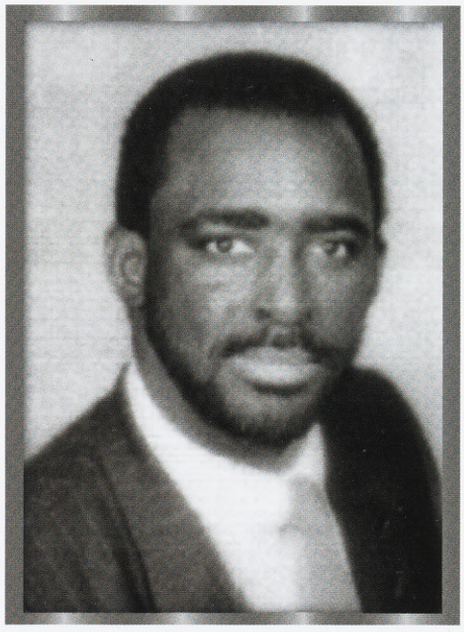
Parting View - Fouches Hudson Staff

"I'm Available to You"

You gave me my hands, to reach out to man, To show him your love, And your perfect plan.

You gave me my ears, I can hear your voice so clear, I can hear the cries of sinners,
But can I wipe away their tears;

You gave me my voice, to sing your Word,
To sing praises, to those who have never heard, But with my eyes I see a need for more availability,
I see hearts that have been broken, So many people to be free.



Now I'm giving back to you, all the tools you gave to me,
My hands, my ears, my voice, my eyes,
So you can use them as you please,

I have emptied out my cup,
So that you can fill me up, Now I'm free, I just want to be, More available to you.

Lord, I'm available to you,
My will I give to you, I'll do what you say to,
Use me Lord, to show someone the way, Enable me to say, my storage is empty, And I'm available for you!

Dr. Gordon W. Choyce, Sr.

Active Pallbearers

James (Jameo) T. Choyce III.
Lavell Spence
Charles Lightfoot
Rinard Ford
Ernest Choyce III.
Kevin McGlothen

Honorary Pallbearers

Deacon Robert Benson
Deacon Roosevelt Bess
Donald Palmer Sr.
Deacon Charles Lightfoot Sr.
Deacon Jacob Wallace
James A. Choyce

Acknowledgment

We are GRATEFUL for the many prayers along with your kind and comforting words, fragrant flowers, the hugs, beautiful cards and Vittles. The many kind acts seen and unseen. They brought so much solace during this difficult time. We acknowledge that Prayer has sustained and strengthen this family.

Special Thank You

To the Loving and Caring Nurses, Doctors and Specialists at
Kaiser Permanente Richmond and Oakland Campuses
UC Davis Medical Center
Ace Home Health and Hospice Care
Carebuilder's and Elder Care Services
Mary Uy, Pastor Choyce's Private Nurse
Rinard Ford, Pastor's companion

We Thank You

Bishop J.W. Macklin & the Nor Cal Metropolitan Jurisdiction
For your tremendous support love and prayers, our hearts are abundant
with gratitude. To all of our Extended Church Family and Friends

To Our Grandson James who left College to come home to take care of his Grandpa. Thank you James, for your selfless sacrifice in caring for Papa. You put your life on hold, and walked this journey with him until the end. For all that you have given to us, it's not in vain, God will reward you for all of your efforts. Love Grandma Choyce
The Choyce Family

Interment

Rolling Hills Memorial Park
4100 Hilltop Drive - Richmond, CA 94803

Repast

Guest, Family & Friends are Invited,
Richmond Memorial Auditorium Convention Center
403 Civic Center Plaza - Richmond, CA 94804

Arrangements Entrusted To:

Fouché's Hudson Funeral Home
3665 Telegraph Ave. - Oakland, CA 94609 - (510) 654-8558

Programs Provided By: We Design AP, (510) 309-9059, wedesignap.com